

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00729 251236Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-02 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 DEAE-00 /021 W
-----002388 251317Z /43

P 242132Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5949
HQ US CUSTOMS SERVICE, INTL OPERATIONS DIVISION PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJ: ARA NARCOTIC DETECTOR DOC CONFERENCE, CUSTOMS PROGRAMS
IN COLOMBIA

REF: (A) BOGOTA 0558 (B) BOGOTA 10610

1. US CUSTOMS TDY TEAM MET 23 JAN 78 WITH AMBASSADOR ASENSIO,
EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, NARCOTICS ADVISORS, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, AND COMMANDER OF F-2, NATIONAL POLICE.

2. FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, SOME POLITICAL, WHICH HAVE COME
TO PASS IN COLOMBIA SINCE THE TRANSMISSION OF REF B, IT IS NOT
CONSIDERED FEASIBLE TO HAVE VENUE OF COLOMBIA FOR PLANNED ARE
NARCOTIC DETECTOR DOG CONFERENCE. SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES SUGGEST
THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, TEAM DESIRES TO POSTPONE DISCUSSIONS OF
VENUE UNTIL TEAM'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON. IN THE MEANTIME THE
TRIP WILL CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF CON-
FERENCE PARTICIPATION AND RELATED SUBJECTS. IN ADDITION TO
COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION, EXPECT POSITIVE RESPONSE IN LIMA
AND IN LA PAZ.

3. COMMISSIONER CHASEN'S INVITATION TO DIRECTOR GENERAL
FRANCO WAS DELIVERED, DISCUSSED IN SOME DEPTH, AND RECEIVED
WITH WARMTH AND APPRECIATION. DR. FRANCO ANTICIPATES
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BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION IN MARCH.

4. DIRECTOR GENERAL STATED THAT HIS SERVICE INTENDS TO
SEND TWO OFFICIALS TO CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL IN NEAR
FUTURE TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF COLOMBIAN ENTRANCE INTO
THE CCC. THIS AREA TOO WAS DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL.

5. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED FOR IN COUNTRY TRAINING FOR COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS IN MARCH, ONE SESSION IN BOGOTA AND ONE SESSION IN PRINCIPAL PORT OF BARRANQUILLA, BOTH TO BE FOLLOWED BY INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT ADD-ON.

6. AMBASSADOR AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS SUPPORT ASSIGNMENT OF TWO US CUSTOMS ADVISORS (ONE OPERATIONS AND ONE TRAINING) IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. DETAILS WILL BE CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY CUSTOMS TDY TEAM LEADER.
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